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President: Mr. Drobnjak (Vice-President) ..... (Croatia)

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In the absence of Mr. Sajdik (Austria), Mr. Drobnjak (Croatia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Annual ministerial review: Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Allah Kouadio** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that the post-2015 development agenda should integrate realistic sustainable development goals that were universal and could also be adapted to each State's particular situation. It should also build on and carry forward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), taking into account the challenges encountered in their implementation. His Government had undertaken major projects aimed at making Côte d'Ivoire an emerging economy by 2020. In that respect, the President was leading efforts to foster a peaceful political environment; guarantee human rights and the rule of law; promote transparency and the participation of the private sector and civil society in governance; and increase investment and the processing of raw materials.

2. In a law on sustainable development adopted in June 2014, his Government had committed to implementing the principles of sustainable development and promoting social responsibility, sustainable consumption and production, and accountability. It also planned to update the national sustainable development plan, establish related commissions and draft a road map for a green economy. Those objectives would depend on the implementation of a sustainable, environmentally friendly economic growth programme that created employment. The support of the international community would be needed in that regard, including to address pollution, coastal erosion and other effects of climate change; protect biodiversity; and create appropriate financing mechanisms for sustainable development.

3. Member States must take further action to strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as called for in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), entitled "The future we want" (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex). Indeed, the recent flooding of Abidjan following torrential rains, which had left thousands homeless, was but one of the increasingly frequent extreme weather events, which, together with the other unchecked effects of climate change, depletion of natural resources and pollution, had made it a critical necessity to strengthen the agency's role as the leading global environmental authority. A more ambitious and rigorous commitment to addressing environmental challenges must also be clearly integrated into the post-2015 development agenda.

4. **Mr. Tshibanda N'Tungamulongo** (Democratic Republic of the Congo) said that the post-2015 development agenda must balance macroeconomic, social and environmental policy issues, which would require a single framework and common objectives that respected the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. In that regard, capacity-building support for developing countries to conduct their own monitoring and evaluation was critical to the poverty eradication effort and should be a key objective of international cooperation. A mechanism to facilitate the transfer of environmentally friendly technology to developing countries could also play a decisive role.

5. Member States should therefore continue to foster multilateral coordination, coherence and accountability within the United Nations system so as to ensure that assistance was effective and efficient. Greater interaction between development partners and international financial institutions should also be promoted to ensure that appropriate financial resources were available to implement the post-2015 development agenda, particularly in African countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and countries emerging from conflict. Official development assistance (ODA) should be increased and preferential trade measures should be adopted to address the economic vulnerability and structural weaknesses faced by least developed countries. Modalities for the transfer and exchange of technology in line with the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action should also be adopted.

6. Youth should play an integral role in defining the new development agenda and participate in decision-making processes. Governments should also seek to guarantee young people education and training that was relevant to the job market, as well as decent employment opportunities.

7. It was regrettable that for many countries the realization of the MDGs by 2015, in particular the goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, remained out of reach. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, while there were signs of progress in some areas, the existence of structural problems in other areas meant that no short- or medium-term improvements were likely in the absence of a radical change in policies or strategies. Primary school enrolment had increased from 55 per cent in 2005 to 90 per cent and maternal mortality and HIV rates had significantly decreased. The Government's efforts to designate protected areas and preserve biodiversity, with REDD+ funding, were also noteworthy. However, there was still much to be done in terms of women's equality and political participation. Furthermore, the majority of the population continued to live below the poverty line. In response to those challenges, the Government, on the basis of the country's favourable economic conditions, including a low inflation rate and 7.9 per cent growth, had developed unprecedented plans to build socioeconomic infrastructure, promote private investment and create jobs in the agricultural sector.

8. The armed conflicts in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo had not only stalled progress towards achievement of the MDGs but had also made the country less resilient, hampered economic growth and destroyed years of investment in human capital. For that reason, his Government called for a peace and security component that emphasized conflict prevention to be included in the post-2015 development agenda.

9. **Mr. Tekeste** (Ethiopia) said that the post-2015 sustainable development agenda should build on the progress made towards achieving the MDGs. In that regard, many countries in sub-Saharan Africa lagged behind other developing countries; their economies were characterized by low agricultural productivity and weak industrialization. His Government was seeking to enhance agricultural productivity and stimulate the industrial sector to play a greater role in national economic development, while making efficient use of energy resources. The Climate-Resilient Green Economy Strategy aimed to ensure greener and more inclusive economic growth and to contribute to global climate change mitigation efforts by harnessing Ethiopia's renewable energy sources. The timing of the post-2015 development agenda process offered the Government an opportunity to shape its national Growth and Transformation Plan accordingly as implementation of the Plan was scheduled to begin in 2015.

10. The African Heads of State and Government had recently adopted a development plan for the continent spanning the next 50 years, allowing regional priorities also to be aligned with the global development agenda. While national Governments bore the primary responsibility for development, their efforts must be supported by cooperation initiatives and genuine partnerships. There was also a need for a mechanism to provide States in special situations with assistance in implementing the new global sustainable development goals. In that regard, Ethiopia had started preparations to host the third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa in 2015. The consensus agreements to be reached at the Conference would define the partnership framework for the period beyond 2015.

11. His delegation looked forward to the Climate Summit to be held in September 2014, and hoped that it would help leverage support to expedite negotiations, in particular towards the adoption of a global binding agreement on climate change in 2015. In that respect, the problems of land degradation and deforestation, which had detrimental effects on food production and ecological balance, must be addressed.

12. Global guidelines and institutions should reflect the rapidly changing development landscape. The post-2015 development agenda must therefore address the deficiencies in the current global governance structure and foster conditions for the smooth and effective operation of the global economy.

13. **Ms. Rotheiser-Scotti** (Austria) said that her Government had conducted an internal consultative process with Austrian civil society, which had led to a national position affirming the call for the post-2015 development agenda to reinforce the international commitment to poverty eradication and sustainable development, as set out in the outcome document of the special event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (A/68/L.4), held on 25 September 2013. Specifically, her delegation proposed that the new agenda should incorporate a rights-based approach, including the rights of persons with disabilities; peace and security; good governance; the fight against corruption; the response to climate change; the sustainable use of

natural resources; biodiversity, including mountain ecosystems; inclusive and sustainable economies; inclusive and sustainable industrial development; education, including vocational training; and employment, decent jobs and social protection floors. It also called for inclusion of specific goals on gender equality and women's empowerment; children's rights; sustainable energy; and water, sanitation and hygiene. The rule of law should receive particular attention as a prerequisite to achieving all future goals and targets. Inclusive and sustainable development depended on unhindered and equal access to an independent legal system that safeguarded the rights of all, in particular the poorest and most vulnerable groups.

14. The elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda must be transparent and include all stakeholders, including developing and developed countries, civil society, parliamentarians, audit institutions, local and regional governments, philanthropic organizations and the private sector. In that regard, the importance of the Council's Development Cooperation Forum, the designated platform to convene all stakeholders, could not be overstated. Her delegation urged all decision makers to heed the Forum's input. The more stakeholders' voices were heard during the elaboration of the agenda, the stronger their engagement would be during its implementation.

15. An integrated and universal global partnership founded on the full consensus of Member States was needed to implement the future development agenda. That partnership must be inclusive and effective; reflect the full range of national and international efforts required; set out the roles and responsibilities of all countries; and integrate the principles of shared responsibilities, mutual accountability and respective capacities. It should promote the effective use of all available resources, such as ODA, domestic resources, multi-stakeholder partnerships, innovative financing and the private sector. It should also be coherent with the financing for development process, which would culminate at the third International Conference on Financing for Development in July 2015.

16. **Mr. Liu** Jieyi (China) said that poverty was the major obstacle to development and the cause of conflict and crises. In that regard, the international community must follow through on the MDGs and set the total eradication of poverty as the core task of the post-2015 development agenda, encouraging States to strive for inclusive development and equality while balancing the three dimensions of sustainable development.

17. The global partnership for development should be strengthened. The international community should uphold the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, seek common development and win-win cooperation, and build sincere and pragmatic partnerships. Developed countries should effectively honour their obligations to provide ODA in time and in full, and transfer environmentally friendly technologies to developing countries in order to enhance their capacity for sustainable development. States would need to work together to create open, transparent and non-discriminatory international trade and financial systems to facilitate the integration of developing countries into the global value chain and the growth of their economies.

18. Science and technology could play a transformative role in easing the pressure of population growth and energy insufficiency and clearing the bottlenecks hindering progress towards sustainable development. In that regard, States should increase investment in science and technology, strengthen the related infrastructure and accelerate implementation of innovations in order to boost productivity and make them a genuine driving force for development. For its part, the international community should identify the capacity needs and practical difficulties faced by developing countries in accessing technological innovation and increase assistance accordingly.

19. States should raise public awareness of sustainable development, encourage public participation in associated processes, champion the idea of moderate and rational consumption, and implement resource-efficient and recycling-oriented production methods. Governments should use sustainability as a criterion in policymaking and create a sound regulatory and market environment to facilitate development. Civil society and communities should participate in efforts to raise public awareness of the need for ecological conservation and environmental protection.

20. China had achieved seven of the MDGs, including Goal 1 on poverty reduction, and had applied a sustainable development strategy to all areas of economic and social development. Faced with a weak global economic recovery and the slowing of its

domestic economy, his Government had endeavoured to guarantee a basic standard of living and promote social development. It had worked to reform the economic structure and create an environmentally friendly and resource-efficient growth model. His Government would continue to improve quality of life, enhance ecological preservation and strive for sustainable development.

21. China participated in international cooperation for development and had fulfilled the responsibilities corresponding to its level of development. The Government was also actively engaged in South-South cooperation, in particular in the areas of environmental protection, climate change and energy resources.

22. **Mr. Oh** Joon (Republic of Korea) said that discussion of the post-2015 development agenda should begin with an evaluation of the implementation of the MDGs. While the Goals had been quite successful in reducing extreme poverty and hunger, results had been uneven and limited by significant inequality. Accordingly, the future development agenda would need to be inclusive, as well as environmentally sustainable. In that regard, his delegation hoped that the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals under development would reflect all aspects of sustainable development in a balanced manner. Poverty eradication was the key to sustainable development and the greatest global challenge. Efforts to address the root causes of poverty and its multiple dimensions in a sustainable manner should take into account cross-cutting issues such as inclusive economic growth, universal quality education, gender equality and women's empowerment, and good governance, which would have a major impact on development results. At the same time, the new development goals should be simple, easy to communicate and limited in number.

23. The sustainable development goals should serve as the framework for and be incorporated into the post-2015 development agenda. Implementation of a transformative agenda would require a different scale and scope of support. While ODA would remain critical, a renewed global partnership involving all relevant stakeholders was also needed to match the growing demands from around the world. In that regard, resource mobilization should be maximized and coordination among all stakeholders should be strengthened.

24. A renewed global partnership should be supported by a robust, participatory, and transparent monitoring and accountability mechanism, which would ensure commitments were fulfilled and facilitate progress towards the new development goals. In that regard, his Government's experience in implementing the global monitoring framework of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation could help strengthen such a monitoring mechanism. The high-level symposium of the Council's Development Cooperation Forum, to be held in Seoul in April 2015, would focus on how development cooperation could support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda at the global, regional and national levels.

25. It was to be hoped that, by successfully fulfilling its mandated role as the central mechanism for follow-up to the new agenda, the Council would be strengthened, as envisaged in General Assembly resolution 68/1.

26. **Mr. Rigby** (Canada) said that the international community should focus on the essential objectives of protecting the most vulnerable, eradicating extreme poverty and ensuring respect for fundamental rights. The post-2015 development agenda should limit the number of goals to 10 at most; those should be achievable and easily measured, communicated and shared. The agenda should integrate the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development into the priorities established through the MDGs.

27. While many States were calling for a single goal on health, it was worth noting that progress towards the MDGs on improving maternal health and reducing child mortality lagged far behind the expected results. Women and children were among the poorest and most vulnerable groups in the world and their needs must not be overlooked. Furthermore, it was well established that empowering women and girls led to more peaceful and prosperous societies. A stand-alone goal on maternal and child health was therefore critical.

28. The new development agenda must also comprehensively address the protection of children and include specific targets on violence against children, child labour and trafficking, and early and forced marriage. Systemic problems that affected the lives of women and youth should also be targeted and issues such as job creation, economic growth and skills

development must be addressed. Sustainable and inclusive growth required an environment conducive to investment that allowed markets to diversify and add value. Those conditions were inaccessible to countries that suffered the destabilizing effects of conflict. The establishment of peace and stability must therefore also be an integral part of the new development framework. Implementation of the agenda must be inclusive and democratic, based on a design and implementation process that involved all stakeholders. Its goals must be realistic, precise and measurable. A robust monitoring framework was also needed to hold those responsible accountable for achieving results for the poorest and most vulnerable. In that regard, data collection systems must also be strengthened in developing States.

29. **Mr.** Masood **Khan** (Pakistan) said that, thanks to the MDGs, global poverty had been halved and gender disparity in school enrolment had been reduced. Those achievements were spurring the international community to continue pursuing a comprehensive development agenda, with clear goals and time-bound targets. The momentum towards achieving the unmet goals needed to be sustained; progress had been uneven and unequal within and among States.

30. The international economic outlook had changed dramatically since the adoption of the Goals in 2000. Current economic doctrines tended to devalue ODA and promote the role of business and technology in implementing a transformative agenda. The emphasis was shifting towards strong national ownership over actions such as developing strategies, building robust institutions, promoting the rule of law and good governance, and fostering the conditions for peace, security and stability.

31. Climate change could no longer be ignored; States must address the issue through adaptation and mitigation measures. The leadership of the United Nations should supplement rather than supplant the work of Member States under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

32. The international community should take collective measures to reduce macroeconomic volatility and redress global systemic imbalances in the areas of aid, trade, investment and technology transfer. To ensure the success of the sustainable development goals, the World Trade Organization must embrace more development-oriented trade and investment regimes. Economic growth combined with distributional equity was the real means to overcome poverty. In that regard, markets should be developed to create decent employment, and science, technology and innovation should be supported. Furthermore, financing for development should be guided by sound economics and not founder on politics.

33. An intergenerational approach towards inclusive development was essential to preparing the world for 2030 and beyond. The lessons learned from implementing the MDGs must also be integrated into the sustainable development goals. Complementary national development strategies would be critical to ensuring national buy-in to the new goals, while monitoring, accountability and a well-conceived review mechanism should also be integral to the post-2015 agenda.

34. In Pakistan, the MDGs had provided concrete socioeconomic targets that had helped reduce poverty. Other areas, such as child mortality and improved maternal health, were a work in progress. His Government's efforts to promote women's empowerment by enhancing their representation in national and provincial legislatures and enacting an appropriate legal framework were producing tangible results on the ground. However, progress in all areas had been hampered by the country's security situation, the terrorist threat and frequent and massive natural disasters.

35. His Government was focused on economic growth and development and was to double education and health spending as a ratio of gross domestic product. The Prime Minister's programme for providing a quality education, life skills and vocational training, as well as credit lines for young entrepreneurs, was creating new opportunities to utilize the full potential of the youth bulge. Similarly, energy, infrastructure and communications projects would provide valuable impetus for the economic growth needed to achieve equitable development.

36. **Mr. Ntwaagae** (Botswana) said that the focus of the high-level political forum should be to address the challenges to development, including poverty, social and economic inequality, climate change, land degradation, desertification and drought, and unsustainable patterns of consumption and production. The singular and most important achievement of the

MDGs had been to mandate a global response to those pressing issues. The post-2015 development agenda should be predicated on the completion of the remaining agenda of the Goals, which many countries had faced difficulties in fulfilling.

37. Botswana had been successful in achieving universal primary education and ensuring universal access to HIV/AIDS treatment and support services. His Government remained resolute in its efforts to stem the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Other priorities included improving maternal health, reducing child mortality, addressing non-communicable diseases, promoting gender equality and ensuring environmental sustainability. Efforts to improve quality of life centred on the implementation of rights-based poverty eradication programmes, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups such as women, youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

38. Climate change posed a critical challenge to development efforts in Botswana, which suffered some of the most adverse impacts of that phenomenon, including extreme temperatures, severe water shortages, land degradation, desertification and persistent drought. A national climate change policy, strategy and action plan was being prepared in order to guide efforts to mitigate the impact across all economic sectors. His Government therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's initiative in organizing a Climate Change Summit in September 2014 to catalyse action and increase political momentum towards a legally binding agreement to be adopted in Paris in 2015.

39. The situation of countries in special categories, in particular landlocked developing countries, must be addressed in the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda. Such countries required financial support, technology transfer and capacity-building that could help them establish climate change adaptation and mitigation mechanisms. In that regard, his delegation hoped that the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, to be held in Vienna in November 2014, would address the issue comprehensively and facilitate its inclusion in the new development agenda.

40. Lastly, it was important to note that many States, including Botswana, would need support in implementing the post-2015 development goals. In that respect, the new global agenda must set out clear, concrete and precise means to achieve those goals.

41. **Mr. Seger** (Switzerland) said that the post-2015 agenda would need to integrate economic development, social development and environmental protection into a single, universal agenda for poverty eradication and sustainable development. His delegation encouraged Member States to make effective use of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, as its universal membership allowed it to link the political leadership of the General Assembly with the Council's work at the operational level, through streamlined processes that avoided duplication. It was also mandated to review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments, including the means of implementation.

42. At the operational level, United Nations entities would need to integrate the sustainable development goals into their planning processes. In that regard, coordination mechanisms within the United Nations system would need to be reviewed. Member States would have the opportunity to guide that process during the quadrennial comprehensive policy review in 2016. His delegation called for the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the General Assembly to be held in 2015 as part of the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, in order to ensure that the guidance provided at the high-level political forum could be followed up in the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and thus have an impact on the United Nations operational system.

43. The monitoring and accountability framework of the new agenda should include a robust review mechanism under the high-level political forum to ensure coherence and progress in implementation, and full integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. Member States should lead the review, emphasizing the sharing of experiences of implementation at the national level. A proper review mechanism would facilitate the identification of common barriers and solutions and offer a platform for partnerships with broad participation by public and private actors. It should also reinforce existing review mechanisms at the national, regional and international levels.

44. While the agenda of the high-level political forum should be guided by the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, it should also be flexible enough to allow for discussions of current and emerging development issues. In that regard, the Global

Sustainable Development Report was an important tool and should considered part of the new agenda's monitoring and accountability framework.

45. Governments alone would not be able to deliver on a transformative post-2015 sustainable development agenda; the input and participation of civil society, the private sector, academia, foundations and local actors must be enhanced in order to ensure transparency, promote implementation of the new goals and support the agenda-setting process of the high-level political forum. His delegation therefore welcomed the efforts of the Development Cooperation Forum to engage a wide range of stakeholders in an open and inclusive policy dialogue and hoped that it would help participants to agree on an accountability framework for the post-2015 agenda.

46. **Ms. Picco** (Monaco) said it was clear that the United Nations had an important role to play in respect of the establishment of a global governance system that covered all institutions, policies, regulations, procedures and initiatives. There was also a need for national ownership over a sustainable development agenda developed on the basis of global consensus.

47. The post-2015 development agenda must take into account the increasing interdependence of States and the inequalities among them, as well as the planet's limited resources. Major structural changes paired with environmentally friendly economic models were required to eliminate poverty and guarantee social development for a growing global population. In addition, Member States should seek to promote decent employment, in particular for youth, and gender equality and women's empowerment. Scientific and technological innovations should benefit a global partnership for sustainable development, in which States, multilateral organizations, the private sector, civil society and academia assumed their responsibilities and promoted a participatory approach. Such a global partnership should not be limited to the sum of multilateral partnerships, but should be part of a strengthened governance system that quantified results, collected data and defined indicators.

48. On the basis of those priorities, Monaco would continue to offer its support to the most vulnerable populations, in particular women and children, in the areas of education, health and peace and security. Recognizing that there was no single model for sustainable development, her delegation reiterated its respect for the cultural identity of all of its partners. The threat of climate change, including its effects on the world's oceans, spurred her Government to face the challenge of sustainable development and ensure a future for the coming generations.

49. **Mr. Çevik** (Turkey) said that the three dimensions of sustainable development must be at the core of the post-2015 development agenda. The world population was expected to reach 9 billion by 2050, which would place enormous pressure on water, food and energy resources. One billion people were already suffering from undernourishment; at the same time, climate change posed a huge threat, with biodiversity declining and small island States facing rising sea levels. Sustainable development would depend on such factors as decent employment, international partnerships, peace and security, good governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Societies would also need to reassess their consumption patterns.

50. Those objectives would not be met if the appropriate resources and assistance, including technology transfer and capacity-building, were not made available. In line with the outcome document of Rio+20, the mechanism developed to distribute the burden of financing should respect the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, in accordance with States' respective capabilities. Given that the total needs exceeded the available national and international public financial resources, private financing must serve as the main source of the required investments. In that regard, international financing sources would need to support the limited public financing capabilities of developing countries, including middle-income countries, least developed countries and small island developing States.

51. North-South cooperation should remain a core element of global development cooperation, with South-South cooperation providing complementary support. Official development assistance was still a major source of external financing in many countries. In that regard, the development of public-private partnerships was critical to fostering additional sources of financing. For its part, Turkey had been expanding its assistance to partners in a range of areas. It had increased its total development assistance to $3.3 billion in 2012 and had become the fourth largest donor in the area of humanitarian assistance. International partnerships for development should respect the national priorities of recipient countries. In

addition, efficient monitoring and reporting mechanisms could help ensure the accountability and effectiveness of partnerships.

52. **Mr. Koncke** (Uruguay) said that Member States had agreed at Rio+20 that consumption and production patterns must be changed and that sustainable development depended on the eradication of poverty and the establishment of a strong institutional framework. In that regard, the experience gained in seeking to reach the MDGs should be applied to the multiple and interconnected challenges of achieving poverty eradication, social inclusion, gender equity, human rights and the reduction of inequality within and among countries. Once the post-2015 development agenda was established, the high-level political forum under the auspices of the Council would serve as a platform for dialogue aimed at generating policy recommendations for implementation by Member States through national policy.

53. Official development assistance, complemented by other forms of international development cooperation, such as South-South cooperation, would remain critical to funding and promoting development. In that regard, the criteria used by financing institutions to define and classify middle-income countries should be reviewed and modified so as to take into account the percentage of people living in extreme poverty; classifying countries based simply on the income gap did not fully reflect the obstacles to development. A broader range of indicators that could demonstrate each country's situation and identify its major needs was required. The current allocation criteria for international cooperation overlooked the needs of poor people living in so-called middle-income countries, who made up 70 per cent of people living in poverty, and ultimately undermined the pursuit of poverty eradication and sustainable development.

54. Balanced, open, non-discriminatory international trade based on regulatory stability was a major driver of development. Trade liberalization under such conditions facilitated economic and social development. In that regard, the stalling of the Doha Round of the World Trade Organization, which covered development and agricultural matters as part of its mandate, was a matter of concern.

55. As stated in the outcome document of Rio+20, the commitments set out in Agenda 21 and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, as well as the principles outlined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, must be reaffirmed.

56. The MDGs were based on a concept of absolute poverty that did not take into account the growing inequality within and among countries. The post-2015 development agenda must therefore be grounded in the concept of equity and must integrate gender, human rights and environmental protection as cross-cutting issues.

57. **Ms. Frankinet** (Belgium) said that the outcome document of Rio+20 defined the ways to integrate sustainable development into the post-2015 development agenda. Those included eradicating poverty, promoting sustainable production and consumption patterns, and protecting the limited resources that contributed to economic and social development. In addition, the new development goals must be action-oriented and fully integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development. At the national level, that required the adoption of decision-making processes that included civil society and the private sector. At the international level, the United Nations system should aim for greater coherence in the activities of its various development entities and work closely with development partners.

58. The new agenda should aim for inclusive development compatible with the planet's capacity and should seek to ensure that people in both developed and developing countries had an adequate living standard and were guaranteed social and environmental protection. It should also foster respect for human rights and the universal values of equality, justice, peace and good governance, and provide for the participation of national, regional and local governments, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and individuals. It must be people-centred and transformative, and must demand collective action and global solutions. At the same time, it was up to each Member State to determine the policies that it would adopt in response to the common challenges identified. National policies should incorporate the three dimensions of sustainable development and build on successful development and poverty reduction strategies. Participative national, regional and local strategies that involved a range of stakeholders would help to guide decision-making, implementation and monitoring processes. They would

also foster transparency and promote consensus around priority issues and their solutions.

59. **Mr. Emvula** (Namibia) said that Namibia had made significant progress in all but two of the MDGs, although more remained to be done, especially in the areas of poverty reduction, HIV/AIDS prevention, infant mortality, maternal health and land ownership. His Government took particular pride in the increase in primary school enrolment levels to 99.6 per cent in 2012, although the quality of education remained substandard. The classification of Namibia as an upper middle income country had led to a reduction in external development support to the country, even though inequality remained a serious challenge, with high levels of poverty in rural areas, especially among female-headed households.

60. Bearing in mind the centrality of poverty eradication for sustainable development, it was essential to take a coherent and integrated approach to the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda, integrating lessons learned, as well as the principles and values enshrined in the Millennium Declaration, the outcome document of Rio+20 and the outcomes of all major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields. The new agenda should also respect national circumstances and the unique development priorities of developing countries. Africa's common position was a vehicle to mainstream the needs and aspirations of its people in the sustainable development goals. The post-2015 development agenda required concerted efforts to enhance integration, coordination and sustainability and should address all three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced way. Namibia attached great importance to multilateral platforms such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Challenges such as drought, desertification and land degradation eroded the three pillars of development, and a related goal should be included in the agenda.

61. **Mr. Deghani** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the post-2015 development agenda should take into account the drastic changes in the international environment that had occurred since the adoption of the MDGs in 2000. The new agenda should integrate a broader range of issues and the three dimensions of sustainable development, with universal applicability, as well as taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Greater political will, dedication and visibility would be required to achieve that vision and the high-level political forum had a key role to play in that regard. Implementation of sustainable development commitments was not a zero-sum game. It was to be hoped that the institutional structure for sustainable development would be significantly strengthened by the high-level political forum, which was essential for monitoring and reviewing the post-2015 development agenda.

62. Means of implementation, including capacity-building for developing countries, technology, finance and a sound trading system were of vital importance, requiring international cooperation and support. It was to be hoped that specific sustainable development goals on those issues would soon be finalized. Efforts to promote an open, rules-based, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system should continue and, in that regard, his delegation recognized the role of the United Nations development system in undertaking global economic and financial coordination to reduce macroeconomic volatility and risks. His delegation welcomed the Prototype Global Sustainable Development Report and looked forward to participating in the consultation process to reach an agreement on its scope and modalities. It was to be hoped that the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda and the practical start of the high-level political forum's work in 2016 would mark the beginning of a new chapter where the concerns of humanity would be addressed.

63. **Ms. Flores** (Honduras) said that a number of countries, including Honduras, would be unable to achieve all the MDGs by the target date, despite the progress made. It was therefore essential that pending challenges should be carried forward into the post-2015 development agenda, in order to ensure that the agreed targets were ultimately reached. Commitments and plans must be transformed into policies, strategies and applicable tools. Though the primary responsibility for development lay with each individual State, international cooperation, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, was of major importance for developing countries. The international community must transform the old model of assistance into an investment and partnership model that contributed to a more balanced world, whether via technical assistance, direct financing or other means, and whether through North-South, South-South or triangular cooperation. Investment in capacity-building

was crucial to the implementation of the sustainable development goals. Inclusive, participatory partnerships should be strengthened in those sectors involved in ensuring accountability to contribute to the building of peaceful societies, and access to new technologies should be provided to the most isolated and disadvantaged segments of society.

64. Her Government's priorities were the development of national productive potential, equitable and sustainable economic growth, increased education coverage and quality, expanded and improved health, water and sanitation services, and the reduction of all types of inequalities, together with social protection for the most vulnerable groups, the empowerment of women, and the protection of children from the moment of conception. Mothers must be empowered by providing all elements necessary to ensure the well-being of their children. In that regard, it was important to find solutions to curb the scourge of transnational crime, drugs trafficking and drug use, which created a culture of violence. Though neither a producer nor a consumer of drugs, Honduras had become a bridge for illicit drugs trafficking, and the drugs culture represented the greatest obstacle to its development. In the absence of action to change that situation, the survival of Honduran citizens often depended on their ability to flee the associated violence. Urgent action was therefore also needed to address the plight of migrants, particularly child migrants.

65. **Ms. Morgan** (Mexico) said that her Government awaited with interest the results of the regular reviews to be conducted by the high-level political forum, under the Council's auspices, on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, starting in 2016. Those regular reviews should build on the experiences and lessons learned from other mechanisms, in particular the national voluntary presentations made in the context of the annual ministerial review.

66. Given that inclusion was central to the post-2015 development agenda, her Government had organized three international workshops to discuss how to deepen and integrate social and economic inclusion within the development framework. Two workshops had provided the opportunity to exchange experiences on key development issues such as poverty eradication, social protection, decent employment and gender equality; the third, to be held on 22 and 23 July 2014, together with the World Bank and the United Nations regional commissions, would address how to establish inclusion-based goals and indicators to guide the activities of Governments, society, international bodies and the private sector for more equitable development.

67. Financing for development was essential to the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the post-2015 development agenda. Her Government sought the establishment of a true global alliance for development based on the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and the Rio+20 outcome document. The agreements on cooperation contained in those documents should be realized through the third International Conference on Financing for Development. In the same vein, the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which could make invaluable contributions to the implementation of the new development agenda by increasing the impact of development cooperation and producing positive changes on the ground, should serve as a complementary platform to ensure the mobilization of sufficient international resources for development from all sources, including ODA. The transparency and predictability of ODA should be ensured in line with the priorities and objectives of developing countries.

68. **Mr. Barriga** (Liechtenstein) said that, with several key MDG targets likely to be missed, important remaining challenges should now be addressed in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. His Government was strongly committed to the formulation of concrete sustainable development goals. The MDGs had not lived up to their full potential for a number of reasons, including a lack of focus on the enablers of sustainable development, including peace, stability, good governance, gender equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights. Though some degree of development could be achieved without those factors, sustainable development required them all. It was also critical to establish an effective mechanism to review implementation of the sustainable development goals, since the MDGs had also fallen short in the area of accountability. The high-level political forum provided a strong institution framework for that purpose. Liechtenstein placed great priority on the development of a State-led and voluntary review mechanism, based on inclusive, interactive and constructive dialogue and the full involvement of all relevant stakeholders. His delegation was working informally with a number of countries to promote

discussion on such a mechanism and hoped that other delegations would join the dialogue.

69. **Mr. León Gonzalez** (Cuba) said that neither the MDGs nor any goals proposed for the post-2015 period would be met for as long as the world order was characterized by the plundering of natural and human resources; unequal trade between North and South; deregulation and financial corruption in developed countries; reckless consumerism; and spending on bank bailouts and the arms race rather than development. Deep structural changes, involving the establishment of a new fair, democratic, inclusive and equitable international economic and political order, were needed in order to accelerate progress in the achievement of the MDGs and establish a solid post-2015 development agenda. The United Nations had a pivotal role to play in that process.

70. Although the achievement of the MDGs had been hindered by a lack of sufficient and predictable financial resources, developed countries were attempting to silence any mention of their ODA commitments and redefine the concept of cooperation by seeking to place the responsibility for international development cooperation on new development partners. While his delegation acknowledged the need to strengthen the global partnership for development, that partnership should include the explicit engagement of all countries, particularly donor countries, to the goals of the post-2015 development agenda, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Developed countries, after all, owed a moral debt to the countries of the South, whose impoverishment was a direct consequence of the colonial and neo-colonial systems that had enslaved their people and pillaged their natural resources.

71. His delegation welcomed the General Assembly's decision, in resolution 68/6, to launch a process of intergovernmental negotiations that would lead to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, drawing on the outcomes of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. The decision of the General Assembly regarding a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies, and other relevant legal precedents, should also be taken into account. The post-2015 development agenda should be based on consensus and should fully integrate the three pillars of sustainable development while avoiding polarizing political positions or ideologies. It should also be universal and flexible enough to address national priorities and circumstances, respect the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and be informed by lessons learned from the MDGs, while helping to resolve the structural problems that plagued developing countries and eliminating inequalities between and within societies and regions. It should generate changes that resulted in poverty eradication; foster sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection; take account of specific situations and issues facing various categories of developing countries; and contain goals, targets and indicators related to means of implementation.

72. The process for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda must be inclusive, transparent and intergovernmental in nature. The High-level Political Forum had an important role to play in the implementation, follow-up and review of the new agenda. Particular attention should be paid to the follow-up of commitments and objectives related to the means of implementation, including financing. In that connection, Cuba welcomed the third International Conference on Financing for Development to be held in July 2015.

73. **Mr. Laram** (Qatar) said that, at the start of a new chapter for sustainable development, it was important to build on previous experiences and move forward in line with the outcome of Rio+20. Bearing in mind the importance of the High-level Political Forum, which drew on the strengths of both the General Assembly and the Council and enabled all Member States to participate in the decision-making process, his delegation looked forward to a policy declaration that would satisfy the concerns of the international community and enable the challenges arising in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda to be addressed. The high-level political forum provided a key opportunity for the provision of important inputs for the building of an international platform for the post-2015 development agenda, which would be agreed by all actors involved in the economic, social and environmental spheres and would address the issues regarding the implementation of the three pillars of sustainable development. The principle

of common but differentiated responsibilities and the importance of cooperation for sustainable development should also be taken into account, and the outcome of the high-level political forum should reflect both regional priorities and long-term development goals.

74. **Mr. Saeed** (Iraq) said that there was clearly a link between peace and security and the achievement of sustainable development objectives. Furthermore, terrorism and armed conflict posed an obstacle to the achievement of such objectives. Iraq, which had been the target of terrorist attacks for over a decade, believed that terrorism was the greatest challenge to development. Despite the ferocity of recent terrorist attacks, his Government had continued to make every possible effort to mitigate their impact on people's lives. The latest attacks had caused the displacement of many Iraqi citizens, with a very negative impact on agriculture, industry and trade. His country had all the elements required for sustainable development, and continued to work to achieve its development objectives despite the challenge of terrorism. A priority of his Government was to raise living standards through the participation of all stakeholders and the provision of essential services by means of a series of legislative and executive measures.

75. To overcome terrorism, it was important to achieve international peace and security in accordance with the principles of the United Nations, human rights, and respect for the sovereignty of States. His Government greatly appreciated the advice and support provided by those friendly States that had demonstrated solidarity with Iraq in confronting terrorism and thanked all international and regional bodies that had condemned terrorism against Iraq in their official statements. His country was now spearheading the war being waged by the civilized world against terrorism.

76. **Mr. Thompson** (Fiji), speaking also on behalf of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, said that the small island developing States had been making a global call for a development agenda that would benefit all humanity, *in* particular with regard to climate change and the health of the oceans. While those States were at the frontline of the effects of climate change — which would lead to rising sea levels, ocean acidification and increasingly severe storms, droughts and other natural hazards — no one on the planet would escape its harmful effects. There could be no sustainable development if the challenges of climate change and the prospect of barren oceans were not adequately addressed. The three delegations therefore welcomed the inclusion of climate change and ocean issues in the proposal drafted by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. He called on all Member States to strengthen the targets pertaining to climate change and the oceans, including the management of ocean resources and the reduction of marine pollution.

77. Drawing on its experiences of implementing the MDGs, Fiji had instituted a people-centred framework for green growth to guide national development, build environmental resilience and reduce poverty through economic growth. All Melanesian countries had been present at the recent Pacific Islands Development Forum, the goal of which was to address regional development challenges through mutually beneficial innovative partnerships. The Forum was working to secure sustainable development commitments for the region and to mobilize action in support of the green economy.

78. The stand-alone goal for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, supported by focused targets, was another welcome addition to the draft sustainable development goals; his delegation hoped that realistic indicators for that goal would also be developed. Further emphasis should also be given to girls' education as an enabler for economic empowerment and participation of women in leadership positions.

79. The recent report on the framework of actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014 (A/69/62) had identified a number of gaps in the implementation of the Programme of Action, including in fundamental areas such as the need for universal access to reproductive health, and to HIV prevention and treatment; the need to further reduce maternal and child mortality, and the adoption of a rights-based approach to implementing policies and programmes on adolescent health, child health, and sexual and reproductive health. Those gaps should be addressed through action incorporated into the post-2015 development agenda and should be the focus of work of the lead agencies involved in partnership with Governments and other relevant stakeholders.

80. **Mr. Kogda** (Burkina Faso), noting that many countries had implemented institutional frameworks and developed tools to promote sustainable development, said that his Government had adopted a national policy on sustainable development in 2013 and a framework law in 2014, as well as a 10-year plan on sustainable consumption and production patterns.

81. Although some developing countries were recording steady economic growth, the majority of countries in the South still faced the challenges of extreme poverty, food insecurity, debt, underemployment, climate change effects, land degradation and desertification, while their financial resources remained insufficient to meet social needs and promote sustainable economic and social development. The high-level political forum should strive to respond to those challenges by placing a greater emphasis on sustainability, adaptation and innovation. In particular, the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment should be prioritized, with a focus on increasing agricultural production in developing countries to ensure universal access to sufficient, high-quality food. That required significant investment in land rehabilitation and protection, irrigation and productivity improvements.

82. The international community should be wary of measures leading to distortions on international markets, such as speculative practices that caused food price volatility and constituted a serious threat to food security in many developing countries. Millions of people also still lacked access to sustainable energy, requiring the urgent mobilization of adequate support in terms of financial resources and technology transfers.

83. **Ms. Adhikari** (Nepal) said that, although Nepal was on course to meet most of the MDGs, it was vulnerable to losing the gains made and falling back into poverty. Predictable and sustainable means of implementation were key to her Government's development endeavours. Least developed countries such as Nepal deserved the support necessary to sustain growth, eradicate poverty, generate productive employment and decent work, and build resilience from multiple shocks, including the disproportionate impact of climate change. Access to affordable, reliable and renewable energy was a key development enabler. Science, technology and innovation also contributed greatly to development and it was therefore crucial to bridge the digital divide and technology gap, which would require enhanced cooperation from partners. South-South and triangular cooperation should also support the efforts of least developed countries in all areas of cooperation, particularly infrastructure development, technology transfer and capacity-building.

84. Bearing in mind that the least developed countries had a negligible share of global trade, her delegation called for a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system. In that regard, it urged its development partners to provide robust trade-related technical assistance and capacity-building to remove supply-side constraints and promote trade-related infrastructure and productive capacity. International support would prove critical in enabling Nepal to graduate from least developed country status by 2022. In view of the worrying decline in official development assistance flows to least developed countries, ODA commitments to those countries should be honoured, in line with their needs and priorities, and balanced between productive and social sectors. Increased policy coherence and coordination, development effectiveness and a global partnership for development with mutual accountability were also required.

85. It was important to stress that the unfinished business of the MDGs should be carried forward to the post-2015 development agenda, with a focus on productive capacity, infrastructure, decent work, energy and water, and agriculture development, as outlined in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020.

86. **Ms. Carayanides** (Australia), recalling that the objectives of the Group of 20 (G20), of which Australia currently held the presidency, were to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth and ensure a more resilient global economy, said that there were strong reinforcing links between the work of the G20 on sustainable development and that of the United Nations. Australia and other G20 members would work on integrating and mainstreaming a broader development agenda focused on four priority aims: to increase finance for infrastructure investment by working with multilateral development banks and regional banks to increase lending capacity and collaboration and address the impediments faced by low-income countries in accessing finance; to improve the international tax system by developing domestic resource mobilization, addressing tax base erosion and

profit-shifting, and promoting tax-sharing arrangements; to expand access to financial resources, in particular for developing countries, and reduce the cost of remittance transfers; and to lead implementation of the outcomes of the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Bali in 2013, while advocating strongly for the removal of trade restrictions.

87. **Mr. Pursey** (International Labour Organization (ILO)) said that productive employment and decent work for all, including social protection, should lie at the heart of the new sustainable development framework. The relevance and credibility of the post-2015 development agenda would rely on tackling that specific challenge, since jobs were a sustainable means out of poverty that allowed individuals and households to gain dignity and respect, while the lack of decent work increased inequalities, weakened social cohesion and diminished trust in political leadership and national institutions.

88. Comprehensive national development strategies would be central to delivering on the new sustainable development goals and should include national employment policy frameworks to ensure coherence across a wide spectrum of policies, including pro-employment macroeconomic policies; trade, finance, tax and infrastructure policies; and strategies to facilitate school-to-work transition. Effective labour market institutions and regulations were also critical to support livelihoods, enhance productivity, and ensure that earnings were fairly shared. Nationally defined social protection floors must be established to help low-income households to escape poverty while building up effective and efficient systems for economic and social resilience. Moreover, institutions for the promotion and respect of fundamental principles and rights at work, and the meaningful participation of civil society and stakeholders in the national planning process were also essential. Social dialogue based on independent and representative organizations of employers and workers should be integrated among the main means of implementation of the future development framework, to enhance openness, accountability and effectiveness of delivery.

89. Finally, a concerted global effort should be made to improve the national collection and dissemination of relevant and up-to-date labour market statistics, especially in developing countries. There was a particular lack of gender-disaggregated data and information on employment duration, security and quality, and wage levels. A modest international investment in generating better data would produce significant benefits in improving knowledge about patterns of inequality and vulnerability and sustainable ways to address them.

90. **Ms. Jensen** (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)) said that the post-2015 development agenda left no room for a "one size fits all" solution. The powerful drivers of inclusion and sustainability should be harnessed, beginning with education. Despite the significant progress achieved, 57 million children worldwide remained out of school while aid to education was declining. Only 60 per cent of countries had achieved gender parity at the primary school level and 38 percent at the secondary level; the number and quality of teachers across the world also remained too low. UNESCO was therefore promoting a stand-alone sustainable development goal to ensure equitable and inclusive quality education and lifelong learning for all.

91. Science was also a strong driver of development. Stronger national scientific strategies, which entailed investment in research and development capacities, and stronger links between science, policy and society, were therefore needed. Culture, another enabler of development, afforded groups the opportunity to take ownership of and contribute to development strategies, as well as being a source of employment that created particular opportunities for women. Freedom for all individuals to express themselves, share information and take advantage of the benefits of new technologies was also a contributing factor for successful sustainable development. Lastly, the power of human intelligence and invention would be all the stronger if women and girls could contribute to the same degree as men and boys, and for that reason, gender equality was truly the greatest driver of development. Sustainability also depended on justice, human rights and poverty eradication.

92. **Mr. O'Neill** (Assistant Administrator and Director, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)) said that the element of universality gave the post-2015 development agenda its transformative potential; however, the High-level Political Forum should consider how to reconcile the concept of universality with that of differentiation based on national circumstances, since there could be no "one-size-fits-all" approach. UNDP had

helped countries to adapt MDG targets to local realities, anchoring them in national development plans, and anticipated playing a similar role in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

93. The voices of all stakeholders should be heard in the formulation of the new agenda. UNDP, on behalf of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), had contributed to that endeavour through, among other initiatives, the "My World" consultation process, which had enabled 3 million individuals from around the world to express their views on priorities for the future. Through UNDG, it had also been able to work with over 50 countries to explore issues related to implementation, including partnerships with civil society and the private sector, localization, institutional and human capacities, monitoring and accountability. The level of stakeholder engagement should be increased to implement the new agenda, and the High-level Political Forum could play an essential role in supporting such open and participatory citizen-based policymaking.

94. The high-level political forum review mechanism should be based on the lessons learned from the MDGs. Since 2000, UNDP had supported countries in the production of some 450 national MDG reports and was willing to use that capacity to help set national baselines for the implementation of the post-2015 agenda. UNDP looked to the high-level political forum to provide a venue for sharing and learning from sustainable development strategies and approaches in order to pursue a new integrated development agenda.

95. **Ms. Warick** (European Disability Forum), speaking on behalf of the International Disability Alliance and the International Disability and Development Consortium, said that persons with disabilities were the "poorest of the poor" and faced barriers to participation in society, including access to development programmes and funds, education, health care and transportation, among other services. The post-2015 development agenda should be disability-inclusive, with disaggregated data on persons with disabilities mainstreamed across the framework. She welcomed the inclusion of sustainable development goals on education, employment and sustainable cities, with implementable targets, in the proposal of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and hoped that Member States would continue to support targets related to persons with disabilities and disability-sensitive indicators. Lastly, she invited Member States to maintain their commitment to the issue of accessibility, which had been introduced throughout the draft development agenda.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.